Fatal Gas Recipe Gets Out

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LONDON, Jan. 5—The British Department of Defense has taken off the secrets list a lethal nerve gas developed in the 1950s and its formula is now readily available in the Public Patents Office in London, the Sunday Times said today.

The gas, codenamed "VX," could be made in a university laboratory, and its new accessibility has alarming implications in the light of increasingly sophsticated forms of international terrorism, the newspaper said. A tiny drop of the gas in liquid form on the skin could kill a person.

A Defense Ministry spokesman today would not comment on the report. The Sunday Times said there was confusion in official circles as to why the gas was declassified.

Labor Member of Parliament Bruce George said that if the report is confirmed, he would submit a question on the matter to Home Secretary Roy Jenkins in Parliament.